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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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**CHOWCHILLA DEFENDANT INDICTED IN A SCHEME TO DEFRAUD  
THE UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE SYSTEM**

FRESNO--United States Attorney McGregor W. Scott announced today that GUADALUPE RAMIREZ DE LA ROSA, 46, of Chowchilla was indicted Thursday, December 4, 2003, by a federal grand jury with thirty counts of mail fraud. The indictment, previously sealed, was unsealed this morning after the defendant was arrested without incident at his home in Chowchilla.

According to Assistant United States Attorneys Stanley A. Boone and Sheila K. Oberto, who are prosecuting the case, the indictment charges that from February 1998 to April 2003, the defendant allegedly defrauded the State of California, Employment Development Department (EDD) of a minimum of \$225,000 by filing hundreds of false unemployment insurance claims with the EDD. According to the indictment, the defendant fraudulently acquired hundreds of employees' identities, which included names and social security numbers. Using that fraudulently acquired information, the defendant then filed false claims with the EDD and had the fraudulent unemployment checks sent to numerous post office boxes and other addresses that he controlled.

If convicted of all counts, the maximum penalty is twenty years in prison and/or a \$250,000 fine.

The charges are only allegations and the defendants are presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt.

This prosecution is the product of an extensive joint investigation conducted by the United States Department of Labor, Office of Inspector General (OIG), Labor Racketeering and Fraud Investigations, the State of California Employment Development Department Investigative Division and the California Highway Patrol.

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